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Wonderous Grace Diſplay'd

IN THE

LIFE *and* CONVERSION

OF

James Albert Ukawſaw Gronnioſaw,

An AFRICAN PRINCE.

GIVING AN ACCOUNT

Of the Religion, Cuſtoms, Manners, &c. of the Natives of ZAARA, in AFRICA.

AS RELATED BY HIMSELF.

I will bring the Blind by a Way that they know not, I will lead them in Paths that they have not known: I will make Darkneſs Light before them, and crooked Things ſtraight. Theſe Things will I do unto them, and not forſake them. Iſa. lxii. 16.

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L E E D S:

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AN ACCOUNT OF James Albert, &c.

I WAS born in the city of *Bournou*; my mother was the eldest daughter of the King of *Zaara*, of which *Bournou* is the chief city. I was the youngest of six children, and particularly loved by my mother, and my grandfather almost doated on me.

I had, from my [illegible] curious turn of mind; was more [illegible] in my disposition than either [illegible] or sisters. I often teazed them with questions they could not answer; for which reason they disliked me, as they supposed that I was either foolish, or insane. 'Twas certain that I was, at times, very unhappy in myself: it being strongly impressed in my mind that there was some *Great Man* of power that resided above the sun, moon and stars, the objects of our worship. My dear indulgent mother would bear more with me than any of my friends beside.—I often raised my hand to heaven, and asked her who lived there? Was much dissatisfied

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I had, from my infancy, a curious turn of mind; was more grave and reſerved in my diſpoſition than either of my brothers or ſiſters. I often teazed them with queſtions they could not anſwer; for which reaſon they diſliked me, as they ſuppoſed that I was either fooliſh, or inſane. 'Twas certain that I was, at times, very unhappy in myſelf: it being ſtrongly impreſſed in my mind that there was ſome *Great Man* of power that reſided above the ſun, moon and ſtars, the objects of our worſhip. My dear indulgent mother would bear more with me than any of my friends beſide.—I often raiſed my hand to heaven, and aſked her who lived there? Was much diſſa-

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tisfied when ſhe told me, the ſun, moon and ſtars, being perſuaded, in my own mind, that there muſt be ſome *Superior Power*.——I was frequently loſt in wonder at the works of creation: was afraid, uneaſy, and reſtleſs, but could not tell for what, I wanted to be informed of things that no perſon could tell me; and was always diſſatisfied. Theſe wonderful impreſſions begun in my childhood, and followed me continually, 'till I left my parents, which affords me matter of admiration and thankfulneſs.—It is the cuſtom of our country to circumcife their children, and waſh them before going to bed.

To this moment I grew more and more uneaſy every day, inſomuch that one ſaturday (which is the day on which we keep our ſabbath) I laboured under anxieties and fears that cannot be expreſſed; and, what is more extraordinary, I could not give a reaſon for it.——I roſe, as our cuſtom is, about three o'clock, (as we are obliged to be at our place of worſhip an hour before the ſun riſe) we ſay nothing in our worſhip, but continue on our knees with our hands held up, obſerving a ſtrict ſilence 'till the ſun is at a certain height, which I ſuppoſe to be about ten or eleven o'clock in England: when, at a certain ſign made by the prieſt, we get up (our duty being over) and diſperſe to our different houſes.—Our place of meeting is under a large palm tree; we divide ourſelves into many congregations; as it is impoſſible for the ſame tree to cover the inhabitants of the whole city, though they are extremely large, high and majeſtic; the beauty and uſefulneſs of them are not to be deſcribed; they ſup-

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ply the inhabitants of the country with meat, drink and clothes;* the body of the palm tree is very large; at a certain ſeaſon of the year they tap it, and bring veſſels to receive the wine, of which they draw great quantities, the quality of which is very delicious: the leaves of this tree are of a ſilky nature; they are very long and ſoft; when they are dried and pulled to pieces it has much the ſame appearance as the Engliſh flax, and the inhabitants of *Bournou* manufacture it for cloathing, &c. This tree likewiſe produces a plant or ſubſtance which has the appearance of a cabbage, and very like it, though in taſte much preferable: it grows between the branches. Alſo the palm tree produces a nut ſomething like a cocoa, which contains a kernel, in which is a large quantity of a liquid reſembling oil, very pleaſant to the taſte: the ſhell is of a hard ſubſtance, and of a very beautiful appearance. Bows and arrows are likewiſe made of the branches of this tree, being of an exceeding tough nature, not unlike whalebone.—It may not be unentertaining if I tell you their manner of ſmoaking tobacco, which is thus, they have a golden bowl, with a certain number of ſtems or branches fix'd in it, ſix feet long, therein they put about three pounds of tobacco, which they ſet on fire, then ſit round and ſmoak.

I hope this digreſſion will be forgiven.—I was going to obſerve that after the duty of our ſabbath

* *It is a generally received opinion, in England, that the natives of Africa go entirely uncloathed; but this ſuppoſition is very unjuſt; they have a kind of dreſs ſo as to appear decent, though it is very ſlight and thin.*

was over, (on the day on which I was more diſtreſſed and afflicted than ever) we were all on our way home as uſual, when a remarkable black cloud aroſe and covered the ſun; then followed very heavy rain, and thunder more dreadful than ever I had heard, the heavens roared, and the earth trembled at it: I was highly affected and caſt down, inſomuch that I wept ſadly, and could not follow my relations and friends home. I was obliged to ſtop, and felt as if my legs were tied; they ſeemed to ſhake under me: ſo I ſtood ſtill, being in great fear of the *Man of Power*, that I was perſuaded in myſelf lived above. One of my young companions (who entertained a particular friendſhip for me and I for him) came back to ſee for me; he aſked me why I ſtood ſtill in ſuch very hard rain? I only ſaid to him that my legs were weak, and I could not come faſter; he was much affected to ſee me cry, and took me by the hand, and ſaid he would lead me home, which he did. My mother was greatly alarmed at my tarrying out in ſuch terrible weather; ſhe aſked me many queſtions, ſuch as what I did ſo for, and if I was well? My dear mother, ſays I, pray tell me who is the *Great Man of Power* that makes the thunder? ſhe ſaid, there was no more power but the ſun, moon and ſtars; that they made all our country.——I then enquired how all our people came? ſhe anſwered me, from one another; and ſo carried me to many generations back. Then, ſays I, who made the *Firſt Man*? and who made the firſt cow, and the firſt lion, and where does the fly come from, as no one can make him? My mother ſeemed in great trouble; ſhe was apprehenſive

prehenſive that my ſenſes were impaired, or that I was fooliſh. My father came in, and ſeeing her in grief, aſked the cauſe; but when ſhe related our converſation to him, he was exceedingly angry with me, and told me he would puniſh me ſeverely if ever I was ſo troubleſome again; ſo that I reſolved never to ſay any thing more to him. But I grew very unhappy in myſelf; my relations and acquaintance endeavoured by all the means they could think on, to divert me, by taking me to ride upon goats, (which is much the cuſtom of our country) and to ſhoot with a bow and arrow; but I experienced no ſatisfaction at all in any of theſe things; nor could I be eaſy by any means whatever; my parents were very unhappy to ſee me ſo dejected and melancholy.

About this time there came a merchant from the *Gold Coaſt*, the third city in *Guinea*; he traded with the inhabitants of our country in ivory and gold duſt; he took great notice of my unhappy ſituation, and enquired into the cauſe; expreſſed vaſt concern for me, and ſaid, if my parents would part with me for a little while, and let him take me home with him, it would be of more ſervice to me than any thing they could do for me. He told me that if I would go with him, I ſhould ſee houſes with wings to them, walk upon the ſea, and ſhould alſo ſee the white folks; and that he had many ſons of my age who ſhould be my companions; and he added to all this that he would bring me ſafe back again ſoon. I was highly pleaſed with the account of this ſtrange place, and was very deſirous of going. I ſeemed ſenſible of a ſecret impulſe upon my mind which I could not

reſiſt,

reſiſt, that ſeemed to tell me I muſt go. When my dear mother ſaw that I was willing to leave them, ſhe ſpoke to my father and grandfather and the reſt of my relations, who all agreed that I ſhould accompany the merchant to the Gold Coaſt, promiſing him to load all his camels with the richeſt produce of the country when he brought me ſafe back. I was the more willing to go as my brothers and ſiſters deſpiſed me, and looked on me with contempt on the account of my unhappy diſpoſition; and even my ſervants ſlighted me, and diſregarded all I ſaid to them. I had one ſiſter who was always exceeding fond of me, and I loved her entirely: her name was *Logwy*: ſhe was quite white and fair, with fine light hair, though my father and mother were black.* I was truly concerned to leave my beloved ſiſter, and ſhe cried moſt ſadly to part with me wringing her hands, and diſcovered every ſign of grief that can be imagined. Indeed, if I could have known when I left my friends and country, that I ſhould never return to them again, my miſery on that occaſion would have been inexpreſſible. All my relations were ſorry to part with me: my dear mother came with me upon a camel more than three hundred miles. The firſt of our journey lay chiefly thro' woods: at night we ſecured ourſelves from the wild beaſts by making fires all around us;

* *Although in our country, people be generally black, yet there be ſome all white, and others part black and part white. My mother was a black, but her breaſt was white: It is a diſgrace to a black to have any white colour on his body; and that perſon is treated with ſcorn and reproach whenever they diſagree.*

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and our camels kept within the circle, or we muſt have been torn to pieces by the lions and other wild creatures, that roared terribly as ſoon as night came on, and continued to do ſo 'till morning. There can be little ſaid in favour of the country through which we paſſed; only a valley of marble that we came through, which is unſpeakably beautiful. On each ſide of this valley are exceedingly high and almoſt inacceſſible mountains. Some of theſe pieces of marble are of a prodigious length and breadth, but of different ſizes and colour, and ſhaped in a variety of forms, in a wonderful manner. It is moſt of it veined with gold, mixed with ſtriking and beautiful colours; ſo that when the ſun darts upon it, it is as pleaſing a ſight as can be imagined.——The merchant that brought me from *Bournou*, was in partnerſhip with another gentleman, who accompanied us; he was very unwilling that he ſhould take me from home, as, he ſaid, he foreſaw many difficulties that would attend my going with them. He endeavoured to prevail on the merchant to throw me into a very deep pit that was in the valley, but he refuſed to liſten to him, and ſaid, he was reſolved to take care of me; but the other was greatly diſſatisfied; and when we came to a river, which we were obliged to paſs through, he purpoſed throwing me in and drowning me; but the merchant would not conſent to it, ſo that I was preſerved.

We travelled 'till about four o'clock every day, and then began to make preparations for night, by cutting down large quantities of wood, to

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make huts to preſerve us from wild beaſts.* We had a very unhappy and diſcontented journey, being in continual fear that the people I was with would murder me. I often reflected with extreme regret on the kind friends I had left, and the idea of my dear mother frequently drew tears from my eyes. I cannot recollect how long we were in going from *Bournou* to the *Gold Coaſt*; but as there is no ſhipping nearer to *Bournou* than that city, *(Fonti)* it was tedious in travelling ſo far by land, being upwards of a thouſand miles. I was heartily rejoiced when we arrived at the end of our journey: I now vainly imagined that all my troubles and inquietudes would terminate here; but could I have looked into futurity, I ſhould have perceived that I had much more to ſuffer than I had before experienced, and that they had as yet but barely commenced.

I was now more than a thouſand miles from home, without a friend or any means to procure one. Soon after I came to the merchant's houſe I heard the drums beat remarkably loud, and the trumpets blow; the perſons accuſtomed to this employ are obliged to go upon a very high ſtructure appointed for that purpoſe, that the ſound might be heard at a great diſtance. I was mightily pleaſed with ſounds ſo entirely new to me, and

* *Among wild beaſts the Tyger is moſt voracious and fierce; one I remember devour'd a whole family, getting into the houſe which was cover'd with flags, but could not get back the ſame way he went, ſo he was forc'd to remain therein; the neighbours wonder'd that none ſtirr'd out or appeared about the houſe, nor could they hear any noiſe; at laſt, they ventur'd to peep in, and there they eſpy'd a large Tyger, which had devour'd all the family; they firſt ſhot it with a poiſon'd arrow, then dragg'd it along the way, as a ſpectacle for all to behold.*

was very inquiſitive to know the cauſe of this rejoicing, and aſked many queſtions concerning it. I was anſwered that it was meant as a compliment to me, becauſe I was grandſon to the King of *Bournou*.

This account gave me a ſecret pleaſure: but I was not ſuffered long to enjoy this ſatisfaction, for in the evening of the ſame day, two of the merchant's ſons (boys about my age) came running to me, and told me, that the next day I was to die, for the King intended to behead me. —I replied that I was ſure it could not be true, for that I came there to play with them, and to ſee houſes walk upon the water with wings to them, and the white folks; but I was ſoon informed that their King imagined that I was ſent by my father as a ſpy, and would make ſuch diſcoveries at my return home that would enable them to make war with the greater advantage to ourſelves; and for theſe reaſons he had reſolved I ſhould never return to my native country. When I heard this I ſuffered miſery that cannot be deſcribed. I wiſhed a thouſand times that I had never left my friends and country. But ſtill the *Almighty* was pleaſed to work miracles for me.

The morning I was to die, I was waſhed and all my gold ornaments made bright and ſhining; and then carried to the palace, where the King was to behead me himſelf (as is the cuſtom of the place).—He was ſeated upon a throne at the top of an exceeding large yard, or court, which you muſt go through to enter the palace; it is as wide and ſpacious as a large field in England. I had a lane of life-guards to go through. I gueſſed it to be about three hundred paces.

I was conducted by my friend, the merchant, about half way up; then he durſt proceed no further: I went up to the King alone, with an undaunted courage, and it pleaſed God to melt the heart of the king, who ſat with his ſcymitar in his hand ready to behead me; yet, being himſelf ſo affected, he dropped it, and took me upon his knee and wept over me. I put my right hand round his neck, and preſt him to my heart.

The king then called the merchant, and enquired of him the cauſe of my being brought thither; intimating to him that my ſtay in that place would enable me to learn the ſtrength of the inhabitants, and at my return ſhould inform the people of *Bournou* thereof, who would doubtleſs come and ravage the country, the merchant in vindication of himſelf told the king, that I was fooliſh, and that my parents ſuffered him to bring me to ſee the ſhips in hopes it might reſtore me to my wonted chearfulneſs, offering to take me back.

The king ſat me down and bleſt me; and added, that he would not kill me, and that I ſhould not go home, but be ſold for a ſlave. I then was conducted back again to the merchant's houſe.

The next day he took me on board a French brig; but the captain did not chuſe to buy me: he ſaid I was too ſmall; ſo the merchant took me home with him again.

The partner, whom I have ſpoken of as my enemy, was very angry to ſee me return, and again purpoſed putting an end to my life; for he repreſented to the other, that I ſhould bring them into troubles and difficulties, and that I was ſo little that no perſon would buy me.

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The merchant's reſolution began to waver, and I was indeed afraid that I ſhould be put to death; but however he ſaid he would try me once more.

A few days after a Dutch ſhip came into the harbour, and they carried me on board, in hopes that the captain would purchaſe me.——As they went, I heard them agree, that if they could not ſell me *then* they would throw me over-board.

I was in extreme agonies when I heard this; and as ſoon as ever I ſaw the Dutch captain, I ran to him and put my arms round him, and ſaid, Father ſave me, (for I knew that if he did not buy me, I ſhould be treated very ill, or, poſſibly, murdered) and though he did not underſtand my language, yet it pleaſed the Almighty to influence him in my behalf, and he bought me for two yards of check, which is of more value there, than in England.

When I left my dear mother I had a large quantity of gold about me, as is the cuſtom of our country; it was made into rings, and they were linked into one another, and formed into a kind of chain, and ſo put round my neck, arms and legs, and a large piece hanging at one ear, almoſt in the ſhape of a pear. I found all this troubleſome, and was glad when my new maſter took it from me.*

I was now waſhed, and clothed in the Dutch or Engliſh manner. My maſter grew very fond of me, and I loved him exceedingly. I watched every look, was always ready when he wanted me, and endeavoured to convince him, by every action, that my only pleaſure was to ſerve him well. I have ſince

* *If it is thought ſtrange that I ſhould be ſold for ſuch a triſle with all my gold ornaments, it muſt be conſidered, that a commodity ſo uncommon in Africa is valued by the Blacks far beyond the quantity of gold I had about me, which to them is very trifling.*

thought that he muſt have been a ſerious man. His actions correſponded very well with ſuch a character. He uſed to read prayers in public to the ſhip's crew every ſabbath-day; and when firſt I ſaw him read, I was never ſo ſurpriſed in my whole life as when I ſaw the book talk to my maſter, for I thought it did, as I obſerved him to look upon it, and move his lips. I wiſhed it would do ſo to me.

As ſoon as my maſter had done reading I followed him to the place where he put the book, being mightily delighted with it, and when nobody ſaw me, I opened it and put my ear down cloſe upon it, in great hope that it would ſay ſomething to me; but was very ſorry and greatly diſappointed when I found it would not ſpeak, this thought immediately preſented itſelf to me, that every body and every thing deſpiſed me becauſe I was a black.

I was exceedingly ſea-ſick at firſt, but when I became more accuſtomed to the ſea, it wore off. My maſter's ſhip was bound for Barbadoes. When we came there, he thought fit to ſpeak of me to ſeveral gentlemen of his acquaintance, and one of them expreſt a particular deſire to ſee me. He had a great mind to buy me; but the captain could not immediately be prevailed on to part with me; but however, as the gentleman ſeemed very ſolicitous, he at length let me go, and I was ſold for fifty dollars. (four and ſixpenny pieces in Engliſh) My new maſter's name was Vanhorn, a young gentleman; his home was in New-England in the city of New-York, to which place he took me with him. He dreſſed me in his livery, and was very good to me. My chief buſineſs was to wait at table and tea, and clean knives, and I had a very eaſy place, but the ſervants uſed to curſe and ſwear ſurprizingly, which I learnt faſter than any thing, 'twas almoſt the firſt Engliſh I could

could ſpeak. If any of them affronted me, I was ſure to call upon God to damn them immediately; but I was broke of it all at once, occaſioned by the correction by an old black ſervant that lived in the family.

One day I had juſt cleaned the knives for dinner, when one of the maids took one to cut bread and butter with; I was very angry with her, and called upon God to damn her; when this old black man told me I muſt not ſay ſo. I aſked him why? He replied there was a wicked man called the Devil, that lived in hell, and would take all that ſaid theſe words, and put them in the fire and burn them. This terrified me greatly, and I was entirely broke of ſwearing.

Soon after this, as I was placing the china for tea, my miſtreſs came into the room juſt as the maid had been cleaning it; the girl had unfortunately ſprinkled the wainſcot with the mop; at which my miſtreſs was angry; the girl very fooliſhly anſwered her again, which made her worſe, and ſhe called upon God to damn her.

I was vaſtly concerned to hear this, as ſhe was a fine young lady, and very good to me, inſomuch that I could not help ſpeaking to her, Madam, ſays I, you muſt not ſay ſo: Why ſays ſhe? Becauſe there is a black man called the Devil that lives in hell, and he will put you in the fire and burn you, and I ſhall be very ſorry for that. Who told you this? replied my lady; Old Ned, ſays I. Very well, was all her anſwer: but ſhe told my maſter of it, and he ordered that Old Ned ſhould be tied up and whipped, and was never ſuffered to come into the kitchen with the reſt of the ſervants afterwards.

My miſtreſs was not angry with me, but rather diverted with my ſimplicity, and, by way of talk, ſhe repeated what I had ſaid to many of her acquaint-

ance that visited her; among the rest, Mr Freelandhouse, a very gracious good minister, heard it, and he took a great deal of notice of me, and desired my master to part with me to him. He would not hear of it at first, but being greatly persuaded, he let me go, and Mr Freelandhouse gave fifty pounds for me. He took me home with him, and made me kneel down, and put my two hands together, and prayed for me, and every night and morning he did the same. I could not make out what it was for, nor the meaning of it, nor what they spoke to when they talked. I thought it comical, but I liked it very well.

After I had been a little while with my new master, I grew more familiar, and asked him the meaning of prayer, (I could hardly speak English to be understood:) he took great pains with me, and made me understand that he prayed to God, who lived in Heaven; that he was my Father and BEST Friend.—I told him that this must be a mistake; that my father lived at BOOMSOU, and I wanted very much to see him and likewise my dear mother and sister, and I wished he would be so good as to send me home to them; and I added all I could think of to induce him to convey me back. I appeared in great trouble and my good master was so much affected that the tears ran down his face. He told me that God was a GREAT and GOOD SPIRIT, that he created all the world, and every person and thing in it, in Ethiopia, Africa, and America, and every where. I was delighted when I heard this: There says I, I always thought so when I lived at home! Now if I had wings like an eagle I would fly to tell to my dear mother that God is greater than the sun, moon, and stars, and that they were made by him.

I was exceedingly pleased with this information of my master's, because it corresponded so well with my

own

own opinion; I thought now if I could but get home, I should be wiser than all my country-folks, my grandfather, or father, or mother, or any of them.—But though I was somewhat enlightened by this information of my master's, yet I had no other knowledge of God but that He was a GOOD SPIRIT, and created every body and every thing.—I never was sensible in myself, nor had any one ever told me, that He would punish the wicked and love the just. I was only glad that I had been told there was a God because I had always thought so.

My dear kind master grew very fond of me, as was his lady; she put me to school, but I was uneasy at that, and did not like to go; but my master and mistress requested me to learn in the gentlest terms, and persuaded me to attend my school without any anger at all; at last, I came to like it better, and learnt to read pretty well. My schoolmaster was a good man, his name was Vanosdore, and very indulgent to me. I was in this state when one Sunday I heard my master preach from these words out of the Revelations, chap. i. v. 7, "Behold, he cometh in the clouds, and every eye shall see him and they that pierced him." These words affected me excessively; I was in great agonies because I thought my master directed them to me only; and I fancied, that he observed me with unusual earnestness.—I was farther confirmed in this belief as I looked round the church, and could see no one person beside myself in such grief and distress as I was; I began to think that my master hated me, and was very desirous to go home to my own country; for I thought that if God did come (as he said) he would be sure to be most angry with me, as I did not know what he was, nor had ever heard of him before.

I went home in great trouble, but said nothing to

any body.—I was ſomewhat afraid of my maſter; I thought he diſliked me.—The next text I heard him preach from was, Heb xii, 14. "Follow peace with all men, and holineſs, without which no man ſhall ſee the LORD." He preached the law ſo ſeverely, that it made me tremble.—He ſaid, that GOD would judge the whole world; Ethiopia, Aſia, and Africa, and every where. I was now exceſſively perplexed, and undetermined what to do; as I had no reaſon to believe my ſituation would be equally bad to go as to ſtay. I kept theſe thoughts to myſelf, and ſaid nothing to any perſon whatever.

I ſhould have complained to my good miſtreſs of this great trouble of mind, but ſhe had been a little ſtrange to me for ſeveral days before this happened, occaſioned by a ſtory told of me by one of the maids. The ſervants were all jealous, and envied me the regard and favour ſhewn me by my maſter and miſtreſs; and the Devil being always ready and diligent in wickedneſs, had influenced this girl to make a lie on me. This happened about hay-harveſt, and one day when I was unloading the waggon to put the hay into the barn, ſhe watched an opportunity, in my abſence, to take the fork out of the ſtick, and hide it: when I came again to my work and could not find it, I was a good deal vexed, but I concluded it was dropt ſomewhere among the hay, ſo I went and bought another with my own money; when the girl ſaw that I had another, ſhe was ſo malicious that ſhe told my miſtreſs I was very unfaithful, and not the perſon ſhe took me for; and that ſhe knew I had, without my maſter's permiſſion, ordered many things in his name,, that he muſt pay for; and as a proof of my careleſsneſs, produced the fork ſhe had taken out of the ſtick, and ſaid ſhe had found it out of doors. My lady, not knowing the truth

truth of these things, was a little shy to me, till she mentioned it, and then I soon cleared myself, and convinced her that these accusations were false.

I continued in a most unhappy state for many days. My good mistress insisted on knowing what was the matter. When I had made known my situation, she gave me John Bunyan on the holy war to read: I found his experience similar to my own, which gave me reason to suppose he must be a bad man; as I was convinced of my own corrupt nature, and the misery of my own heart; and as he acknowledged that he was likewise in the same condition.

I experienced no relief at all in reading his work, but rather the reverse. I took the book to my lady, and informed her I did not like it at all, it was concerning a wicked man as bad as myself; and I did not chuse to read it, and I desired her to give me another, wrote by a better man, that was holy and without sin. She assured me that John Bunyan was a good man, but she could not convince me; I thought him to be too much like myself to be upright, as his experience seemed to answer with my own.

I am very sensible that nothing but the great power and unspeakable mercies of the Lord could relieve my soul from the heavy burden it laboured under at that time. A few days after my master gave me "Baxter's Call to the Unconverted." This was no relief to me neither; on the contrary, it occasioned as much distress in me as the other had before done, as it invited all to come to Christ; and I found myself so wicked and miserable that I could not come. This consideration threw me into agonies that cannot be described; insomuch that I even attempted to put an end to my life. I took one of the large case knives and went into the stable with an

an intent to deſtroy myſelf; and as I endeavoured with all my ſtrength to force the knife into my ſide, it bent double. I was inſtantly ſtruck with horror at the thought of my own raſhneſs, and my conſcience told me that had I ſucceeded in this attempt I ſhould probably have gone to hell.

I could find no relief, nor the leaſt ſhadow of comfort; the extreme diſtreſs of my mind ſo affected my health that I continued very ill for three days and nights; and would admit of no means to be taken for my recovery, though my lady was very kind, and ſent many things to me; but I rejected every means of relief, and wiſhed to die. I would not go into my own bed, but lay in the ſtable upon ſtraw. I felt all the horrors of a troubled conſcience ſo hard to be borne, and ſaw all the vengeance of God ready to overtake me. I was ſenſible that there was no way for me to be ſaved unleſs I came to Chriſt, and I could not come to him; I thought it was impoſſible he ſhould receive ſuch a ſinner as me.

The laſt night that I continued in this place, in the midſt of my diſtreſs theſe words were brought home upon my mind, "Behold the Lamb of God." I was ſomething comforted at this, and began to grow eaſier, and wiſhed for day that I might find theſe words in my bible.

I roſe very early the following morning, and went to my ſchoolmaſter, Mr Vanoſdore, and communicated the ſituation of my mind to him; he was greatly rejoiced to find me enquiring the way to Zion, and bleſſed the Lord who had worked ſo wonderfully for me a poor heathen.

I was more familiar with this good gentleman than my own maſter, or any other perſon; and found myſelf more at liberty to talk to him; he encouraged me greatly, and prayed with me frequently, and I was always benefited by his diſcourſe.

About a quarter of a mile from my maſter's houſe ſtood a large remarkable fine oak tree, in the midſt of a wood; I often uſed to be employed there in cutting down trees, a work I was very fond of. I ſeldom failed going to this place every day, ſometimes twice a day if I could be ſpared. It was the higheſt pleaſure I ever experienced to ſit under this oak; for there I uſed to pour out all my complaints to the LORD: and when I had any particular grievance I uſed to go there and talk to the tree, and tell my ſorrows as if it had been to a friend.

Here I often lamented my own wicked heart, and undone ſtate; and found more comfort and conſolation than ever I was ſenſible of before. Whenever I was treated with ridicule or contempt, I uſed to come here and find peace. I now began to reliſh the book my maſter gave me, "Baxter's Call to the Unconverted," and took great delight in it.

I was always glad to be employed in cutting wood, it was a great part of my buſineſs, and I followed it with delight, as I was then quite alone, and my heart lifted up to GOD, and I was enabled to pray continually; and bleſſed for ever be his holy name, he faithfully anſwered my prayers. I can never be thankful enough to Almighty God for the many comfortable opportunities I experienced there.

It is poſſible the circumſtance I am going to relate will not gain credit with many; but this I know, that the joy and comfort it conveyed to me cannot be expreſſed, and only conceived by thoſe who have experienced the like.

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I was one day in a moſt delightful frame of mind; my heart ſo overflowed with love and gratitude to the author of all my comforts. I was ſo drawn out of myſelf, and ſo filled and awed by the preſence of God, that I ſaw, (or thought I ſaw) light inexpreſſible dart down from heaven upon me, and ſhone around me for the ſpace of a minute. I continued on my knees, and joy unſpeakably took poſſeſſion of my ſoul. The peace and ſerenity that filled my mind after this was wonderful, and cannot be told. I would not have changed ſituations, or been any one but myſelf for the whole world.

I bleſt God for my poverty, that I had no worldly riches or grandeur to draw my heart from him. I wiſhed at that time, if it had been poſſible for me, to have continued on that ſpot for ever. I felt an unwillingneſs in myſelf to have any thing more to do with the world, or to mix with ſociety again. I ſeemed to poſſeſs a full aſſurance that my ſins were forgiven me. I went home all the way rejoicing, and this text of ſcripture came full upon my mind. "And I will make an everlaſting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they ſhall not depart from me."

The firſt opportunity that preſented itſelf, I went to my old ſchool-maſter, and made known to him the happy ſtate of my ſoul, who joined with me in praiſe to God for his mercy on the vileſt of ſinners.—I was now perfectly eaſy, and had hardly a wiſh to make beyond what I poſſeſſed, when my temporal comforts were all blaſted by the death of my dear and worthy maſter Mr Freelandhouſe, who was taken from this world rather ſuddenly: he had but a ſhort illneſs,

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and died of a fever. I held his hand in mine when he departed; he told me he had given me my freedom, I was at liberty to go where I would.—He added that he had always prayed for me, and hoped I ſhould be kept unto the end. My maſter left me by will ten pounds, and my freedom.

I found that if he had lived 'twas his intention to take me with him to Holland, as he had often mentioned me to ſome friends of his there that were deſirous to ſee me; but I choſe to continue with my miſtreſs, who was as good to me as if ſhe had been my mother.

The loſs of Mr. Freelandhouſe diſtreſſed me greatly, but I was rendered ſtill more unhappy by the clouded and perplexed ſituation of my mind; the great enemy of my ſoul being ready to torment me, would preſent my own miſery to me in ſuch ſtriking light, and diſtreſs me with doubts, fears, and ſuch a deep ſenſe of my own unworthineſs, that after all the comfort and encouragement I had received, I was often tempted to believe I ſhould be a caſt-way at laſt.

The more I ſaw of the Beauty and Glory of God, the more I was humbled under a ſenſe of my own vileneſs. I often repaired to my old place of prayer, I ſeldom came away without conſolation. One day this Scripture was wonderfully applied to my mind, "And ye are compleat in him which the head of all principalities and power."—The Lord was pleaſed to comfort me by the application of many gracious promiſes at times when I was ready to ſink under my trouble. "Wherefore he is alſo able to ſave them to the uttermoſt that come unto God by him, ſeeing

ing he ever liveth to make interceſſion for them. Hebrews x. ver. 14. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are ſanctified.

My kind indulgent miſtreſs lived but two years after my maſter. Her death was a great affliction to me. She left five ſons, all young men, and miniſters of the Goſpel. *I* continued with them all, one after another, till they died: they lived but four years after their parents. When it pleaſed God to take them to himſelf, *I* was left quite deſtitute, without a friend in the world. But I who had ſo often experienced the Goodneſs of GOD, truſted in him do what he pleaſed with me.

In this helpleſs condition *I* went into the wood to prayer as uſual; and though the ſnow was a conſiderable height, *I* was not ſenſible of cold or any other inconveniency. At times indeed when *I* ſaw the world frowning round me, *I* was tempted to think that the LORD had forſaken me; *I* found great relief from the contemplation of theſe words in *Iſaiah* xlix. v. 16. "Behold *I* have graven thee on the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. And very many comfortable promiſes were ſweetly applied to me The lxxxix. Pſalm and 34th verſe, "My covenant will *I* not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Hebrews chap. xvi. v. 17. 18. Phillippians, chap. i. v. 6; and ſeveral more.

As *I* had now loſt all my dear and valued friends, every place in the world was alike to me. *I* had for a great while entertained a deſire to come to England.——*I* imagined that all the inhabitants of this iſland were holy; becauſe all thoſe that had

had visited my master from thence were good, (Mr. Whitfield was his particular friend) and the authors of the books that had been given me were all English. But above all places in the world I wished to see Kidderminster, for I could not but think that on the spot where Mr Baxter had lived and preached, the people must be all *righteous*.

The situation of my affairs required that I should tarry a little longer in *New-York*, as I was something in debt, and was embarassed how to pay it. About this time a young gentleman, that was a particular acquaintance of one of my young masters, pretended to be a friend to me, and promised to pay my debts, which were three pounds; and he assured me he would never expect the money again. But in less than a month he came and demanded it; and when I assured him I had nothing to pay, he threatened to sell me.

Though I knew he had no right to do that, yet as I had no friend in the world to go to, it alarmed me greatly. At length he purposed my going a privateering, that I might by these means be enabled to pay him, to which I agreed. Our Captain's name was ————, I went in character of cook to him. Near St. Domingo we came up to five French ships, merchant-men. We had a very smart engagement that continued from eight in the morning till three in the afternoon, when victory declared on our side. Soon after this we were met by three English ships, which joined us, and that encouraged us to attack

a fleet of thirty-ſix ſhips. We boarded the three firſt, and then followed the others, and had the ſame ſucceſs with twelve; but the reſt eſcaped us. There was a great deal of blood ſhed, and I was near death ſeveral times, but the LORD preſerved me.

I met with many enemies, and much perſecution among the ſailors; one of them was particularly unkind to me, and ſtudied ways to vex and teaze me. I cannot help mentioning one circumſtance that hurt me more than all the reſt, which was, that he ſnatched a book out of my hand that I was very fond of, and uſed frequently to amuſe myſelf with, and threw it into the ſea. But what is remarkable, he was the firſt that was killed in our engagement. I do not pretend to ſay that this happened becauſe he was not my friend; but I thought it was a very awful providence to ſee how the enemies of the LORD are cut off.

Our Captain was a cruel hard-hearted man. I was exceſſively ſorry for the priſoners we took in general; but the pitiable caſe of one young gentleman grieved me to the heart. He appeared very amiable; was ſtrikingly handſome. Our Captain took four thouſand pounds from him; but that did not ſatisfy him, as he imagined he was poſſeſſed of more, and had ſomewhere concealed it; ſo that the Captain threatened him with death, (at which he appeared in the deepeſt diſtreſs) and took the buckles out of his ſhoes, and untied his hair, which was very fine and long,

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and in which ſeveral very valuable rings were faſtened. He came into the cabin to me, and in the moſt obliging terms imaginable aſked for ſomething to eat and drink; which when I gave him, he was ſo thankful and pretty in his manner, that my heart bled for him; and I heartily wiſhed that I could have ſpoken in any language in which the ſhip's crew would not have underſtood me, that I might have let him know his danger; for I heard the Captain ſay he was reſolved upon his death: and he put his barbarous deſign into execution, for he took him on ſhore with one of the ſailors, and there they ſhot him.

This circumſtance affected me exceedingly; I could not put him out of my mind a long while. When we returned to *New York*, the Captain divided the prize-money among us that we had taken. When I was called upon to receive my part, I waited upon Mr ———, (the gentleman that paid my debt, and was the occaſion of my going abroad) to know if he choſe to go with me to receive my money, or if I ſhould bring him what I owed. He choſe to go with me; and when the Captain lay my money on the table, (it was an hundred and thirty-five pounds) I deſired Mr ——— to take what I was indebted to him, and he ſwept it all into his handkerchief, and would never be prevailed on to give me a farthing of money, nor any thing at all beſide.

And he likewiſe ſecured a hogſhead of ſugar, which was my due from the ſame ſhip. The Captain was very angry with him for this piece

of cruelty to me, as was every other perſon that heard it. But I have reaſon to believe, (as he was one of the principal merchants in the city) that he tranſacted buſineſs for him, and on that account did not chuſe to quarrel with him.

At this time a very worthy gentleman, a wine-merchant, his name was Dunſcum, took me under his protection, and would have recovered my money for me if I had choſe it; but I told him to let it alone; that I had rather be quiet. I believed it would never proſper with him, and ſo it happened; for by a ſeries of loſſes and misfortunes he became poor, and was ſoon after drowned, as he was on a party of pleaſure. The veſſel was driven out to ſea, and ſtruck againſt a rock, by which means every ſoul periſhed.

I was very much diſtreſſed when I heard it, and felt greatly for his family, who were reduced to very low circumſtances. I never knew how to ſet a proper value on money. If I had but a little meat and drink to ſupply the preſent neceſſity of life, I never wiſhed for more; and when I had any, I always gave it if ever I ſaw an object in diſtreſs. If it was not for my dear wife and children, I ſhould pay as little regard to money now as I did at that time.

I continued ſome time with Mr Dunſcum as his ſervant; he was very kind to me. But I had a vaſt inclination to viſit *England*, and wiſhed continually that it would pleaſe providence to make a clear way for me to ſee this iſland. I

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entertained a notion that if I could get to *England*, I ſhould never more experience either cruelty or ingratitude, ſo that I was very deſirous to get among chriſtians. I knew Mr Whitfield very well. I had heard him preach often at New-York.

In this diſpoſition I enliſted in the twenty-eighth regiment of foot, who were deſigned for Martinico in the late war. We went in Admiral Pocock's fleet from New-York to Barbadoes; from thence to Martinico. When that was taken we proceeded to the Havannah, and took that place likewiſe. There I got diſcharged.

I was then worth about thirty pounds, but I never regarded money in the leaſt, nor would I tarry to receive my prize-money, leſt I ſhould loſe my chance of going to England. I went with the Spaniſh priſoners to Spain; and came to Old England with the Engliſh priſoners. I cannot deſcribe my joy when we were within ſight of Portſmouth. But I was aſtoniſhed when we landed, to hear the inhabitants of that place curſe and ſwear, and otherwiſe profane. I expected to find nothing but goodneſs, gentleneſs, and meekneſs, in this chriſtian land. I then ſuffered great perplexities of mind.

I enquired if any ſerious chriſtian people reſided there. The woman I made this enquiry of anſwered me in the affirmative; and added, that ſhe was one of them. I was heartily glad to hear her ſay ſo. I thought I could give her my whole

 heart.

heart. She kept a public-houſe. I depoſited with her all the money I had not an immediate occaſion for; as I thought it would be ſafer with her: it was twenty-five guineas; but ſix of them I deſired her to lay out to the beſt advantage to buy me ſome ſhirts, a hat, and ſome other neceſſaries. I made her a preſent of a very handſome large looking-glaſs, that I had brought with me from Martinico, in order to recompence her for the trouble I had given her. I muſt do this woman the juſtice to acknowledge, that ſhe did lay out ſome little for my uſe; but the nineteen guineas, and part of the ſix, with my watch, ſhe would not return, but denied that I ever gave it her.

I ſoon perceived that I was got among bad people, who defrauded me of my money and watch; and that all my promiſed happineſs was blaſted. I had no friend but GOD, and I prayed to him earneſtly. I could ſcarcely believe it poſſible that the place where ſo many eminent chriſtians had lived and preached, could abound with ſo much wickedneſs and deceit. I thought it worſe than *Sodom* (conſidering the great advantages they have). I cried like a child, and that almoſt continually: at length God heard my prayers and raiſed me a friend indeed.

This publican had a brother who lived on Portſmouth common; his wife was a very ſerious good woman. When ſhe heard of the treatment I had met with, ſhe came and enquired into my real ſituation, and was greatly troubled at the ill uſage I had received, and took me home to her

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own houſe. I began now to rejoice, and my prayer was turned into praiſe. She made uſe of all the arguments in her power to prevail on her who had wronged me, to return my watch and money, but it was to no purpoſe. As ſhe had given me no receipt, and I had nothing to ſhew for it.

My good friend was exceedingly angry with her, and obliged her to give me back four guineas, which ſhe ſaid ſhe gave me out of charity, tho' in fact it was my own, and much more. She would have employed ſome rougher means, to oblige her to give up my money, but I would not ſuffer her. Let it go, ſays I, "My GOD is in Heaven." Still I did not mind my loſs in the leaſt; all that grieved me was, that I had been diſappointed of finding ſome chriſtian friends, with whom I hoped to enjoy a little ſweet and comfortable ſociety.

I thought the beſt method that I could take now was to go to London, and find out Mr. Whitfield, who was the only living ſoul I knew in England, and get him to direct me to ſome way or other to procure a living without being troubleſome to any perſon. I took leave of my chriſtian friend at Portſmouth, and went in the ſtage waggon to London.

A creditable tradeſman in the city, who went up with me in the ſtage, offered to ſhow me the way to Mr Whitfield's Tabernacle. Knowing that I was a perfect ſtranger, I thought it very

kind,

kind, and accepted his offer; but he obliged me to give him half-a-crown for going with me, and likewiſe inſiſted on my giving him five ſhillings more for conducting me to Dr. Gifford's meeting.

I began now to entertain a very different idea of the inhabitants of England than what I had figured to myſelf before I came amongſt them. Mr Whitfield received me very friendly, was heartily glad to ſee me, and directed me to a proper place to board and lodge in Petticoat-lane, till he could think of ſome way to ſettle me in, and paid for my lodging, and all my expences. The morning after I came to my new lodging, as I was at breakfaſt with the gentlewoman of the houſe, I heard the noiſe of ſome looms over our heads; I enquired what it was, ſhe told me a perſon was weaving ſilk. I expreſſed a great deſire to ſee it, and aſked if I might: ſhe told me ſhe would go up with me; ſhe was ſure I ſhould be very welcome.

She was as good as her word, and as ſoon as we entered the room, the perſon that was weaving looked about, and ſmiled upon us, and I loved her from that moment. She aſked me many queſtions, and I in turn talked a great deal to her. I found ſhe was a member of Mr Allen's meeting, and I began to entertain a good opinion of her, though I was almoſt afraid to indulge this inclination, leaſt ſhe ſhould prove like all the reſt I had met with at Portſmouth, &c. and which had almoſt given me a diſlike to all white women. But after a ſhort acquaintance I had the happineſs to find

find ſhe was very different, and quite ſincere, and I was not without hope that ſhe entertained ſome eſteem for me.

We often went together to hear Dr. Gifford, and as I had always a propenſity to relieve every object in diſtreſs as far as I was able, I uſed to give to all that complained to me; ſometimes half a guinea at a time, as I did not underſtand the real value of it. This gracious good woman took great pains to correct and adviſe me in that and many other reſpects.*

After I had been in London about ſix weeks I was recommended to the notice of ſome of my late maſter Mr Freelandhouſe's acquaintance, who had heard him ſpeak frequently of me. I was much perſuaded by them to go to Holland. My maſter lived there before he bought me, and uſed to ſpeak of me ſo reſpectfully among his friends there, that it raiſed in them a curioſity to ſee me; particularly the gentlemen engaged in the miniſtry, who expreſſed a deſire to hear my experience and examine me.

I found that it was my good old maſter's deſign that I ſhould have gone if he had lived; for which reaſon I reſolved upon going to Holland, and informed my dear friend Mr Whitfield of my inten-

* *It may be obſerved that in our country of* ZAARA, *ſteel and cockle-ſhells are far more eſteemed than gold: Alſo covetouſneſs is not much practiſed with us, for every day what remain after a meal, they give to their neighbours each one in his turn.*

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tion; he was much averſe to my going at firſt, but after I gave him my reaſons he appeared very well ſatisfied. I likewiſe informed my Betty (the good woman that I mentioned above) of my determination to go to Holland, and I told her that I believed that ſhe was to be my wife; that if it was the Lord's will I deſired it, but not elſe. She made me very little anſwer, but has ſince told me, ſhe did not think it at that time.

I embarked at Tower-wharf at four o'clock in the morning, and arrived at Amſterdam the next day by three o'clock in the afternoon. I had ſeveral letters of recommendation to my old maſter's friends, who received me very graciouſly.

Indeed one of the chief miniſters was particularly good to me; he kept me at his houſe a long while, and took great pleaſure in aſking queſtions, which I anſwered with delight, being always ready to ſay, *Come unto me all ye that fear GOD, and I will tell what he hath done for my ſoul.*

I cannot but admire the footſteps of providence, aſtoniſhed that I ſhould be ſo wonderfully preſerved! Tho' the grandſon of a King, I have wanted bread, and ſhould have been glad of the hardeſt cruſt I ever ſaw. I who, at home, was ſurrounded and guarded by ſlaves, ſo that no indifferent perſon might approach me, and clothed with gold, have been inhumanly threatened with death, and frequently wanted clothing to defend me from the inclemency of the weather; yet I never murmured, nor was I diſcontented.

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I am willing, and even desirous of being counted as nothing, a stranger in the world, and a pilgrim here; for *I know that my Redeemer liveth*; and I am thankful for every trial and trouble that I have met with, as I am not without hope that they have been all sanctified to me.

The Calvinist ministers desired to hear my experience from myself, which proposal I was very well pleased with; so I stood before thirty-eight ministers every Thursday for seven weeks together, and they were all very well satisfied. They wrote down my experience as I spoke it; and the *Lord Almighty* was with me at that time in a remarkable manner, and gave me words, and enabled me to answer them; so great was his mercy to take me in hand, a poor blind heathen.

At this time a very rich merchant at Amsterdam offered to take me into his family in the capacity of his butler, and I very willingly accepted it. He was a gracious worthy gentleman, and very good to me. He treated me more like a friend than a servant.

I tarried a twelvemonth, but was not thoroughly contented, I wanted to see my wife (that is now); and for that reason I wished to return to *England*: I wrote to her once in my absence, but she did not answer my letter; and I must acknowledge if she had, it would have given me a less opinion of her. My master and mistress persuaded me much not to leave them, and likewise their two sons, who entertained a good opinion of me; and if I had

had found my Betty married on my arrival in *England*, I ſhould have returned to them again immediately.

My Lady purpoſed my marrying her maid; ſhe was an agreeable young woman, had ſaved a good deal of money, but I could not fancy her, though ſhe was willing to accept of me, but I told her my inclinations were engaged in *England*, and I could think of no other perſon. On my return home I found my Betty diſengaged. She had refuſed ſeveral offers in my abſence, and told her ſiſter that, ſhe thought, if ever ſhe married, I was to be her huſband.

Soon after I came home, I waited on Doctor Gifford, who took me into his family, and was exceedingly good to me. The character of this pious worthy Gentleman, is well known; my praiſe can be of no uſe or ſignification at all. I hope I ſhall ever gratefully remember the many favours I have received from him. Soon after I came to Doctor Gifford, I expreſſed a deſire to be admitted into their church, and ſet down with them: they told me I muſt firſt be baptized; ſo I gave in my experience before the church, with which they were very well ſatisfied, and I was baptized by Doctor Gifford with ſome others.

I then made known my intentions of being married, but I found there were many objections againſt it, becauſe the perſon I had fixed on was poor. She was a widow, her huſband had left her in debt, and with a child, ſo that they perſuaded me

me againſt it, out of real regard to me: But I had promiſed, and was reſolved to have her; as I knew her to be a gracious woman, her poverty was no objection to me, as they had nothing elſe to ſay againſt her.

When my friends found that they could not alter my opinion reſpecting her, they wrote to Mr Allen, the miniſter ſhe attended, to perſuade her to leave me; but he replied, that he would not interfere at all, that we might do as we would. I was reſolved that all my wife's little debt ſhould be paid before we were married; ſo that I ſold almoſt every thing I had, and with all the money I could raiſe cleared all that ſhe owed, and I never did any thing with a better will in all my life, becauſe I firmly believed that we ſhould be very happy together, and ſo it proved, for ſhe was given me from the Lord. And I have found her a bleſſed partner, and we never repented, though we have gone through many great troubles and difficulties.

My wife got a very good living by weaving, and could do extremely well; but juſt at that time there was great diſturbance among the weavers; ſo that I was afraid to let my wife work, leaſt they ſhould inſiſt on my joining the rioters, which I could not think of, and, poſſibly, if I had refuſed to do ſo, they would have knocked me on the head. So that by theſe means my wife could get no employ, neither had I work enough to maintain my family. We had not yet been married a year before all theſe misfortunes overtook us.

Juſt at this time a gentleman, that ſeemed much concerned for us, adviſed me to go into Eſſex with him, and promiſed to get me employed. I accepted his kind propoſal, and he ſpoke to a friend of his, a Quaker, a gentleman of large fortune, who reſided a little way out of the town of Colcheſter; his name was Hanbury; he ordered his ſteward to ſet me to work.

There were ſeveral employed in the ſame way with myſelf. I was very thankful and contented, though my wages were but ſmall. *I* was allowed but eight-pence a day, and found myſelf; but after *I* had been in this ſituation for a fortnight, my maſter, being told that a Black was at work for him, had an inclination to ſee me. He was pleaſed to talk to me for ſome time, and at laſt enquired what wages *I* had; when *I* told him, he declared it was too little, and immediately ordered his ſteward to let me have eighteen-pence a day, which he conſtantly gave me after; and *I* then did extremely well.

I did not bring my wife with me: *I* came firſt alone, and it was my deſign, if things anſwered according to my wiſhes, to ſend for her. *I* was now thinking to deſire her to come to me, when *I* received a letter to inform me ſhe was juſt brought to-bed, and in want of many neceſſaries. This news was a great trial to me, and a freſh affliction: but my GOD, *faithful and abundant in mercy*, forſook me not in this trouble.

As *I* could not read Engliſh, *I* was obliged to apply

apply to some one to read the letter *I* received, relative to my wife. *I* was directed by the good providence of God, to a worthy young gentleman, a Quaker, and friend of my master. *I* desired he would take the trouble to read my letter for me, which he readily complied with, and was greatly moved and affected at the contents; insomuch that he said he would undertake to make a gathering for me, which he did, and was the first to contribute to it himself.

The money was sent that evening to *London*, by a person who happened to be going there; nor was this all the goodness that *I* experienced from these friends, for, as soon as my wife came about, and was fit to travel, they sent for her to me, and were at the whole expence of her coming; so evidently has the love and mercy of God appeared through every trouble that ever *I* experienced.

We went on very comfortably all the summer. We lived in a little cottage near Mr Hanbury's house; but when the winter came on *I* was discharged, as he had no further occasion for me. And now the prospect began to darken upon us again. We thought it most adviseable to move our habitation a little nearer to the town, as the house we lived in was very cold, wet, and ready to tumble down.

The boundless goodness of God to me has been so very great, that with the most humble gratitude *I* desire to prostrate myself before him; for *I* have been wonderfully supported in every affliction.

tion. My God never left me. *I* perceive light ſtill through the thickeſt darkneſs.

My dear wife and *I* were now both unemployed, we could get nothing to do. The winter proved remarkably ſevere, and we were reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs imaginable. I was always very ſhy of aſking for any thing; *I* could never beg; neither did *I* chuſe to make known our wants to any perſon, for fear of offending, as we were entire ſtrangers; but our laſt bit of bread was gone, and *I* was obliged to think of ſomething to do for our ſupport. *I* did not mind for myſelf at all; but to ſee my dear wife and children in want, pierced me to the heart.

I now blamed myſelf for bringing her from London, as doubtleſs had we continued there we might have found friends to keep us from ſtarving. The ſnow was at this ſeaſon remarkably deep; ſo that we could ſee no proſpect of being relieved. In this melancholy ſituation, not knowing what ſtep to purſue, *I* reſolved to make my caſe known to a gentleman's gardener that lived near us, and entreat him to employ me; but when *I* came to him my courage failed me, and *I* was aſhamed to make known our real ſituation. *I* endeavoured all *I* could to prevail on him to ſet me to work, but to no purpoſe; he aſſured me it was not in his power; but juſt as *I* was about to leave him, he aſked me if *I* would accept of ſome carrots? *I* took them with great thankfulneſs, and carried them home; he gave me four, they were very large and fine. We had nothing to make fire with ſo conſequently could not boil them; but was glad to have them to eat *raw*. Our youngeſt child was quite an infant; ſo

that my wife was obliged to chew it, and feed her in that manner for ſeveral days. We allowed ourſelves but one every day, leaſt they ſhould not laſt 'till we could get ſome other ſupply. I was unwilling to eat at all myſelf, nor would I take any the laſt day that we continued in this ſituation, as I could not bear the thought that my dear wife and children would be in want of every means of ſupport.

We lived in this manner 'till our carrots were all gone; then my wife began to lament becauſe of our poor babies; but I comforted her all I could, ſtill hoping and believing that my God would not let us die, but that it would pleaſe him to relieve us, which he did by almoſt a miracle.

We went to bed, as uſual, before it was quite dark (becauſe we had neither fire nor candle), but had not been there long before ſome perſon knocked at the door, and enquired if James Albert lived there? I anſwered in the affirmative, and roſe immediately: as ſoon as I opened the door, I found it was the ſervant of an eminent Attorney who reſided at Colcheſter. He aſked me, how it was with me? and if I was not almoſt ſtarved? I burſt out a crying, and told him. I was indeed. He ſaid his maſter ſuppoſed ſo, and that he wanted to ſpeak to me, and that I muſt return with him This gentleman's name was Daniel; he was a ſincere good chriſtian. He uſed to ſtand and talk with me frequently when I worked in the road for Mr Hanbury, and would have employed me himſelf, if I had wanted work.

When I came to his houſe, he told me that he had thought a good deal about me of late, and was apprehenſive that I muſt be in want, and could not be

ſatisfied 'till he ſent to enquire after me. I made known my diſtreſs to him, at which he was greatly affected, and generouſly gave me a guinea; and promiſed to be kind to me in future. I could not help exclaiming, "O the boundleſs mercies of my God! I prayed unto him, and he has heard me; I truſted in him and he has preſerved me; where ſhall I begin to praiſe him, or how ſhall I love him enough?

I went immediately and bought ſome bread and cheeſe and coal, and carried it home. My dear wife was rejoiced to ſee me return with ſomething to eat. She inſtantly got up and dreſſed our babies, while I made a fire, and the firſt nobility in the land never made a more comfortable meal. We did not forget to thank the Lord for all his goodneſs to us.

Soon after this, as the ſpring came on, Mr Peter Daniel employed me in helping to pull down a houſe, and re-building it. I had then very good work, and full employ. He ſent for my wife and children to Colcheſter, and provided us a houſe where we lived very comfortably. I hope I ſhall always gratefully acknowledge his kindneſs to myſelf and family.

I worked at this houſe for more than a year, 'till it was finiſhed; and after that *I* was employed by ſeveral ſucceſſively, and was never ſo happy as when *I* had ſomething to do; but perceiving the winter coming on, and work rather ſlack, *I* was apprehenſive that we ſhould again be in want, or become troubleſome to our friends.

I had at this time an offer made me of going to Norwich, and have conſtant employ. My wife ſeemed pleaſed with this propoſal, as ſhe ſuppoſed

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ſhe might get work there in the weaving manufactory, being the buſineſs ſhe was brought up to, and more likely toſucceed here than in any other place; and we thought as we had an opportunity of moving to a town where we could both be employed, it was moſt adviſeable to do ſo; and that probably we might ſettle there for our lives.

When this ſtep was reſolved on, I went firſt alone, to ſee how it would anſwer, which I very much repented after; for it was not in my power immediately to ſend my wife any ſupply, as *I* fell into the hands of a maſter that was neither kind nor conſiderate, and ſhe was reduced to great diſtreſs, ſo that ſhe was obliged to ſell the few goods that we had; and when *I* ſent for her, was under the diſagreeable neceſſity of parting with our bed.

When ſhe came to Norwich, I hired a room ready furniſhed. I experienced a great deal of difference in the carriage of my maſter from what I had been accuſtomed to from ſome of my other maſters. He was very irregular in his payments to me. My wife hired a loom, and wove all the leiſure time ſhe had; and we began to do very well, 'till we were overtaken by freſh misfortunes. Our three poor children fell ill of the ſmall pox. This was a great trial to us; but ſtill I was perſuaded in myſelf we ſhould not be forſaken; and I did all in my power to keep my dear partner's ſpirits from ſinking. Her whole attention now was taken up by the children, as ſhe could mind nothing elſe; and all I could get was but little to ſupport a family in ſuch a ſituation, beſide paying for the hire of our room, which I was obliged to omit doing ſeveral weeks; but the woman to whom we were indebted would not excuſe us, though I promiſed ſhe

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ſhould have the very firſt money we could get after my children came about; but ſhe would not be ſatisfied, and had the cruelty to threaten us that if we did not pay her immediately ſhe would turn us all into the ſtreet.

The apprehenſion of this plunged me in the deepeſt diſtreſs, conſidering the ſituation of my poor babies: if they had been in health *I* ſhould have been leſs ſenſible of this misfortune. But my God, ſtill faithful to his promiſe, raiſed me a friend. Mr Henry Gurney, a Quaker, a gracious gentleman, heard of our diſtreſs, he ſent a ſervant of his own to the woman we hired the room of, paid our rent, and bought all the goods, with my wife's loom, and gave it us all.

Some other gentlemen hearing of his deſign were pleaſed to aſſiſt h m in theſe generous acts, for which we never can be thankful enough; after this my children ſoon came about; we began to do pretty well again; my dear wife worked hard and conſtant when ſhe could get work, but it was upon a diſagreeable footing, as her employ was ſo uncertain, ſometimes ſhe could get nothing to do, and at other times when the weavers of Norwich had orders from London, they were ſo exceſſively hurried, that the people they emp'oyed were often obliged to work on Sundays; but this my wife would never do, and it was matter of uneaſineſs to us that we could not get our living in a regular manner, though we were both diligent, induſtrious, and willing to work. I was far from being happy in my maſter, he did not uſe me well. I could ſcarcely ever get my money from him; but I continued patient till it pleaſed GOD to alter my ſituation.

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My worthy friend Mr Gurney, adviſed me to follow the employ of chopping chaff, and bought me an inſtrument for that purpoſe. There were but few people in the town that made this their buſineſs beſide myſelf; ſo that I did very well indeed, and we became eaſy and happy. But we did not continue long in this comfortable ſtate; many of the inferior people were envious and ill-natured, and ſet up the ſame employ, and worked under price on purpoſe to get my buſineſs from me, and they ſucceeded ſo well that I could hardly get any thing to do, and became again unfortunate: Nor did this misfortune come alone, for juſt at this time we loſt one of our little girls, who died of a fever; this circumſtance occaſioned us new troubles, for the Baptiſt miniſter refuſed to bury her becauſe we were not their members. The parſon of the pariſh denied us becauſe ſhe had never been baptized. I applied to the Quakers, but met with no ſucceſs; this was one of the greateſt trials I ever met with, as we did not know what to do with our poor baby. At length I reſolved to dig a grave in the garden behind the houſe, and bury her there; when the parſon of the pariſh ſent for me to tell me he would bury the child, but did not chuſe to read the burial ſervice over her. I told him I did not mind whether he would or not, as the child could not hear it.

We met with a great deal of ill treatment after this, and found it very difficult to live. We could ſcarcely get work to do, and were obliged to pawn our cloaths. We were ready to ſink under our troubles. When I propoſed to my wife to go to Kidderminſter, and try if we could do there. I had always an inclination for that place, and now more than ever, as I had heard Mr Fawcet mentioned in the

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moſt reſpectful manner, as a pious worthy gentleman, and I had ſeen his name in a favourite book of mine, "Baxter's Saints Everlaſting Reſt;" and as the manufactory of Kidderminſter ſeemed to promiſe my wife ſome employment, ſhe readily came into my way of thinking.

I left her once more, and ſet out for Kidderminſter, in order to judge if the ſituation would ſuit us. As ſoon as I came there I waited immediately on Mr Fawcet, who was pleaſed to receive me very kindly, and recommended me to Mr Watſon, who employed me in twiſting ſilk and worſted together. I continued here about a fortnight, and when I thought it would anſwer our expectation, I returned to Norwich to fetch my wife, ſhe was then near her time, and too much indiſpoſed. So we were obliged to tarry until ſhe was brought to bed, and as ſoon as ſhe could conveniently travel, we came to Kidderminſter, but we brought nothing with us, as we were obliged to ſell all we had to pay our debts, and the expences of my wife's illneſs, &c.

Such is our ſituation at preſent. My wife does every thing that can be expected from her towards the maintenance of her family; and God is pleaſed to incline the hearts of his people at times to yield us their charitable aſſiſtance; being myſelf through age and infirmity able to contribute but little to their ſupport.

Thus far the Lord has brought me on; thus far his power preſerves my days. May each ſucceeding day make known ſome freſh memorial of his praiſe.

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Few Providential Deliverances

IN

AMERICA.

I Muſt not forget ſome remarkable deliverances, as God was pleaſed to favour me with, all thanks to his holy name.——Once working by a river ſide, I obſerved ſomething floating on the water like a great piece of timber, preſently I was ſeized with a drowſineſs and ſtupifaction, ſo I dropt down aſleep; providentially a man that minute came by, and ſhouting in my ear, The Crocodile! The Crocodile! I jumped up in a moment, and ſeeing it coming with ſpeed to devour me, but being diſappointed, it gave a woeful groan, and turned back again, and I eſcap'd its voracious jaws.

It may be obſerved, as they have many Crocodiles, they make traps for them thus; they hang up a dog in the place where they come, and near it place a large beam of wood acroſs another in a proper manner, ſo that before he can take the Dog, he muſt paſs under the wood, which falls upon him and breaks his back.

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I was once bitten with a rattle-ſnake, which is generally thought fatal, but applying a proper remedy, by God's mercy, was happily cured.

Another time I was going by a wood ſide, there I eſpied a Bear, which preſented itſelf to me, ſtood upon its hinder feet, holding up its fore feet ready to claſp or ſqueeze me to death; I ſtood ſtill in the greateſt fear and ſurprize, never expecting to eſcape, but thanks to God his mercies are great: A Squirrel happened to be on a bough over the Bear, which juſt then broke, wherewith the Bear was ſo affrighted he run quite away.—Thus we ſee the crack of a bough at this time was a ſufficient means of my delivery.

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